

SPOTLIGHT

NEWS
for the
PEOPLE of
CHULA
VISTA

WERGELAND FAMILY



Discovery Center Makes a Splash

ENCOUNTER ENDANGERED green sea turtles, moray eels, and all new exhibits at the Chula Vista Nature Center! When the Wergeland Family Discovery Center opens in late July, visitors will be surprised by a variety of exciting additions and major changes.

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New Rig to the Rescue

CHULA VISTA FIREFIGHTERS have a sophisticated new rig on the road that gives them an advantage at fire and rescue scenes. The Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) unit, which comes with a specially trained staff of four, is housed at Fire Station 3, located at Brandywine and Olympic Parkway.

What makes the rig valuable is the equipment on board includ-




ing air compressors, a light tower and life-saving rescue tools. In public safety circles, it's often known as a heavy rescue rig.

Compressors assure firefighters of a constant re-supply of air for their breathing apparatus at the same time they're fighting fires. The 5,000-watt light tower illuminates accident scenes and



rescue operations by turning night into day at the flip of a switch. And the new heavy rescue-related tools include a hydraulic chain saw that cuts through concrete in the case of a building collapse and a small camera attached to a 100-foot cord that can search for victims in hard to reach places.

The unit will play a role in all significant emergency calls in the City. In addition, the rig may be used in emergencies in other parts of the state since it meets the strict criteria of the Office of Emergency Services Type I Heavy Rescue program. 


Disaster Preparedness

ARE YOU PREPARED for a disaster? Can you and your family cope with the destruction and aftermath of an earthquake or another Hurricane Katrina? Everyone needs a disaster preparedness plan. Experts tell us to have three days worth of supplies on hand—water, food, medicine, cash and clothing—to be able to survive until help arrives.

There is no need to create your own plan; emergency relief agencies have done the work for you. Find one that suits you by visiting the following links provided by the County's Office of Emergency Services: www.sdcounty.ca.gov/odp/docs/FamilyDisasterPlanPersonaSurvGuid.pdf or www.sdcounty.ca.gov/odp/resources/links.html. More options are available from the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) and the Office of Homeland Security (www.ready.gov).

For those who want to take emergency preparedness to the



next level, consider signing up for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Free classes, offered through Southwestern College, teach Chula Vista residents how to help themselves and their neighbors during a disaster. Be a survivor! Call (619) 476-2303 for additional information. 

Around Town...

Refresh

Sign on and check out the City's redesigned Home page at www.chulavistaca.gov. It offers additional information you can use, plus a newly created City Calendar that tracks important meetings, workshops and events. Look for the streaming video icon that links visitors to live and archived City Council meetings. Watch a video about the Chula Vista Nature Center or an upcoming event. Take a virtual video tour of the new City park and recreation center opening in your neighborhood. And don't forget to subscribe to e-Brief, our free monthly electronic newsletter that brings Chula Vistans the latest news and updates from City Hall.

Christmas in October

Christmas in October is coming to Chula Vista for its eighth straight year, Saturday, October 10, thanks to volunteers from all across the City.

Every October, hundreds of volunteers grab a paintbrush or a hammer to make wishes come true for homeowners in need. Repairs and improvements are free to the selected homeowners who qualify for the program. Beneficiaries are often disabled, low-income or elderly members of the community who haven't been able to keep up with maintaining their homes. Windows, tiles, roofs, pipes and bathroom fixtures, water heaters, smoke detectors and appliances are among the items that have been repaired or replaced as part of this volunteer-driven program.

If you, or someone you know, has a home in need of assistance, applications are available at the front desk of Fire Station 1, located at 447 F street in Chula Vista. If you would like to volunteer, or need information about the program, call (619) 691-5213. Applications must be submitted by August 7.



Big News for the Bayfront

Oh, what a beautiful view! Efforts to get rid of those unsightly power lines and metal transmission towers along Chula Vista's bayfront recently got a boost when the City Council took action to establish a Bayfront Utility Underground District. The purpose of the district is to clear the way for SDG&E to underground the transmission lines and supporting tower structures that line the City's waterfront—from the



power plant at L Street to National City. Undergrounding the wires and towers sets the stage for development of a 500-acre world-class bayfront. The \$20 million project should be completed by the end of 2008.

Commuters Option

Months after its inaugural run, the Chula Vista X-press (CVX) has a steady number of loyal commuters. CVX is a pilot program that offers a financial incentive of \$2 per day to commuters in the City's eastern neighborhoods who carpool, vanpool or take mass transit to work during peak hours. The program offers free express bus service to downtown San Diego during the morning and afternoon. CVX is open only to those east Chula Vista residents who currently drive alone and travel during the peak commute times. Visit the City's website at www.chulavistaca.gov for CVX routes and times.




Commuters should know that a growing number of merchants are offering discounts to shoppers who carry their CVX cards. For a list of participating businesses, call 1-800-634-9722.

Urban Core News

Late this summer, the City Council is expected to adopt a plan that will be the blueprint for west side revitalization, which includes the downtown. It's called the Urban Core Specific Plan (UCSP), and for several months, the public has been weighing in on all elements of the plan.

In May, the Chula Vista Redevelopment Corporation signed preliminary agreements with three new partners who have joined the revitalization efforts. Lennar/Intergulf, Public, and Douglas Wilson Companies have each signed Exclusive Negotiating Agreements (ENAs) for three different sites in the redevelopment area.

The largest property is the six-acre site of the former City Corporation Yard, which Lennar/Intergulf will design for mixed-use residential, office and possible hospitality uses. The other two parcels—the corner of Church and Davidson and the corner of Church and Madrona—are slated for low-rise residential. 

Thinking Globally

THE WORLD IS WATCHING as the City of Chula Vista takes the lead in addressing energy efficiency on a community-wide scale. Recently, the City, working with several prestigious partners including the U.S. Department of Energy, established an energy research center in Chula Vista. The National Energy Center for Sustainable Communities is the first of its kind anywhere in the world. It's so significant, the City was invited to the United Nations to brief an international conference on the venture.

The center is dedicated to demonstrating how to plan and build sustainable communities. In this case, sustainability is about smarter ways of using all of our natural resources including land, energy and water, and doing it in a way that makes good economic sense. Through its work, Chula Vista's center will influence the design and development of communities around the world.

Globally, a tremendous amount of technology is available to make our communities more energy efficient. This center's mission is to find ways to bring all of the latest technologies, products and

ideas together to demonstrate how they can be combined on a community scale to have an impact on our energy consumption.

Part of what makes this center unique is that it's also addressing the social and financial barriers to implementing new technologies. People want to do their part to save energy, but they also want to live in beautiful, comfortable homes and communities. We're attempting to find a way for them to do both. The center will bring all of the pieces of the puzzle together, and our community will show the rest of the world how it can work.

The energy center will be an important part of the University Park and Research Center. Its campus location will allow the center to collaborate with university partners and new energy-related companies and research institutions that will locate here to take advantage of the important work that is underway.

Key research partners include: the Gas Technology Institute (GTI), one of the leading non-profit energy research organizations in the nation; and the Center for Energy Studies at San Diego State University. 🌊

Discovery Center

continued from front page

Watch rainbow trout swim in the cool mountain stream habitat known as Steelhead Creek. Encounter eels and lobsters in the rocky grotto. Check out the mysterious moon jellies.

You'll be delighted and amazed when you explore these along with all of the other exciting new exhibits. Enjoy free admission all day during the grand opening festivities; take the shuttle bus beginning at 10 a.m. from the parking lot at the foot of E Street. Visit www.chulavistanaturecenter.org for the latest event information.

A naturalistic bay habitat featuring green sea turtles will greet you at the dramatic Turtle Lagoon that has been added outside the new Discovery Center. You'll see these shy, gentle giants swimming underwater and basking in the mid-day sun.



When you head inside, you'll explore our region's three major habitat zones—Bay, Marsh and Upland—along with the species that inhabit them. From the 500-gallon schooling fish tank to the 2,500-gallon "bay community" tank, the Discovery Center is filled with all-new live animal exhibits that promise to entertain and educate visitors of all ages.

"You'll experience something new, something different and something to remember," said Nature Center Executive Director Dan Beintema. "We've increased the number of species of animals and dramatically enhanced their exhibit habitats for a more natural setting. For example, our original exhibit water volume was about 1,600 gallons, and our new tanks will total over 14,000 gallons!"

A comprehensive exhibit and facility remodel replaced the 19-year-old interior displays. Generous support—from many individual donors, local foundations and businesses, and from various government agencies—made this project possible. The family of F.L. Wergeland, Jr., M.D., the Duke Energy Foundation, the San Diego Women's Foundation, the County of San Diego, the City of Chula Vista, and the California Coastal Conservancy were the pacesetters in this \$3.4 million campaign.

The Nature Center is regularly open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Other popular exhibits include the David A. Wergeland Shark & Ray Experience, the shorebird exhibit and Eagle Mesa. Visit our website or call (619) 409-5900 for more information. 🌊

Splash into Summer

International Institute of Photographic Arts Victor Diaz Gallery Enjoy an exhibition of elegance and beauty as the International Institute of Photographic Arts and Chula Vista's Cultural Arts Commission announce the opening of the *Victor Diaz Gallery*. A collection of Robert Vavra's photographic work, *Vavra's Visions: Equine Images*, will be presented from June 3 until November 30, 2006. The gallery is located at 1690 Frontage Road and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for students and senior citizens, a \$5 donation is suggested for all other attendees. For more information, please call (619) 628-1466.

Music in the Park A free public concert series, which begins on June 4 and continues until August 27. Concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons in various parks throughout the City. For more scheduling information, please check the City's website at www.chulavistaca.gov. Sponsored by Chula Vista's Office of Cultural Arts.



July Fourth Fireworks Celebrate Independence Day with a spectacular display of fireworks at the Chula Vista Marina at 9 p.m. Sponsored by the City's Department of Recreation. For more information, please call City of Chula Vista, (619) 585-5682.

Celebrate Chula Vista Enjoy this free family festival featuring great food, exciting entertainment, business expo, attractions for the kids, fireworks and more! The action begins at noon and continues until 9 p.m. in Bayside Park on July 4. Sponsored by the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce, Port of San Diego and City of Chula Vista. For more information, please call (619) 420-6603.

Lemon Festival Free family festival on August 13 celebrating Chula

Vista's history as the lemon capital of the U.S., includes live entertainment on two stages, a classic car show, beer gardens, kids fun zone, food and art. The fun begins at 10 a.m. and goes until 5 p.m. on Third Avenue between E to H Streets. Sponsored by the Third Avenue Village Association, (619) 422-1982.

Taste of Third Art Walk Take a bite out of Third Avenue Village on a self-guided walking tour of some of the City's best restaurants! Enjoy a feast for the senses—dine on savory cuisine, view displays of local artists, and experience the history and charm of Third Avenue at 5 p.m. on September 14. For ticket information and further details, please call the Third Avenue Village Association, (619) 422-1982.

For more information about events taking place in Chula Vista throughout the year, please call the City's special events hotline at (619) 585-5682; or visit the "Calendar" page on the City's Web site at www.chulavistaca.gov. 🍷



Did You Know?

- Chula Vista's Memorial Bowl will be getting a facelift this summer thanks to the generosity of our local Rotary Club, which is splitting the \$200,000 renovation tab with the City.
- Residents can download block party permits for their summer gatherings—free of charge—from the City's website or call (619) 691-5296.
- Plans to develop a four-year university campus in eastern Chula Vista have taken another big step forward now that the prestigious Blue Ribbon Committee has completed work on a prospectus—a road map that outlines the academic and business model for the new institution.
- Elected officials and key City staff members are ready, willing and able to talk about the projects and issues that are making news in our neighborhoods. To schedule a speaker, contact the City's Office of Communications at (619) 691-5296.
- Graffiti can be reported to Chula Vista's Public Works Operations at (619) 691-5198 or (619) 397-6000. City staff will make every effort to remove graffiti within 48 hours.



Shopper's Update

SERIOUS SHOPPERS are in countdown mode as the Otay Ranch Town Center—the county's newest regional shopping center—takes shape and more tenants go public. General Growth, the developer, plans to open the center in late October, just in time for holiday shopping. The names of many of the 150 retailers opening stores in the new center haven't been announced, but here's a list of the latest additions.

- AMC Theatre
- Barnes and Noble
- Bath & Body Works
- Coldwater Creek
- Eddie Bauer
- Nestle Tollhouse Café
- REI

- Victoria's Secret
- Macy's
- Coach
- Anthropologie
- Ann Taylor
- Build-A-Bear Workshop

Does shopping make you hungry? P.F. Chang's China Bistro and the Cheesecake Factory have confirmed their Chula Vista debut.

Unlike a traditional mall, the Otay Ranch Town Center is defined as a "lifestyle" center—an open air, pedestrian-oriented shopping experience. A main street runs the length of the center and features on-street parking and two large pedestrian plazas.

The center's main street will be located off EastLake Parkway, south of Olympic Parkway and easily accessible from the new South Bay Expressway (SR 125). 🍷



CHULA VISTA SPOTLIGHT



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The Chula Vista Spotlight newsletter is published five times per year and is distributed as a public service to residents and businesses by the City of Chula Vista. Copies are also available at various locations around the city. Send comments or inquiries to the Office of Communications, City of Chula Vista, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910. The city's Web page address is www.chulavistaca.gov